

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 281333Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9637

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1736

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NO, CB, VN, VS

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WILL EXAMINE QUESTION OF CAMBODIAN
AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE RECOGNITION

REF: OSLO 0783

SUMMARY: AT LABOR PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION THIS
WEEK ONE OF PRINCIPAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES TO COME UP
WAS LEFTISH DEMAND FOR LABOR GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE
THE NEW REGIME IN CAMBODIA AND THE PRG IN VIETNAM.
FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND RESPONDED BY OUTLINING
POLICY, UNCERTAINTIES AND DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN
SUCH RECOGNITION NOW. CONVENTION ADVISED AND HE AGREED,
HOWEVER, TO BRING THE ISSUES TO THE STORTING'S FOREIGN
POLICY COMMITTEE FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. FRYDENLUND
PLANS TO DO SO NEXT WEEK AND WITH UNCERTAINTIES IN-
VOLVED HE EXPECTS COMMITTEE WILL PREFER GOVERNMENT
HOLD OFF ACTION UNTIL SITUATION IN SOUTH EAST ASIA
CLARIFIES. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING LABOR PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION APRIL 19-23

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LEFTIST GROUP PRESSED HARD FOR LABOR GOVERNMENT TO

RECOGNIZE NEW CAMBODIAN REGIME AND PRG IN VIETNAM. IN RESPONSE TO DEMANDS FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND STATED THAT NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON RECOGNITION IS BASED ON THE PRACTICE AND CRITERIA OF CONTROL OVER TERRITORY, NOT CONTROL BASED ON POLITICAL AND MORAL EVALUATIONS. IN CONFORMANCE THIS PRACTICE, HE SAID, GOVERNMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH PARLIAMENTARY ORGANS, IS SEEKING TO TAKE UP QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL DIRECTOR VIBE POINTED OUT TO DCM THAT QUESTION IS MORE COMPLICATED FOR NORWAY THAN IT FIRST APPEARS SINCE NORWAY DOES NOT HAVE RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA. THUS EVEN BASIC QUESTION OF PRESENTING LETTERS OF CREDENCE AND ADDITIONAL QUESTION OF TO WHOM THEY WOULD BE ADDRESSED AND PRESENTED ARE UP IN THE AIR. CONSIDERATION OF THESE AND OTHER MATTERS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE SOME TIME.

3. AS TO THE PRG, FRYDENLUND TOLD PARTY CONVENTION THAT MORE THAN INTERNATIONAL LAW WAS INVOLVED PARTICULARLY AS WAR CONTINUED TO RAGE THERE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT NORWAY'S FUTURE POSITION IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND NORWEGIAN WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY WAITING THE SHORT TIME REMAINING UNTIL PEACE FINALLY CAME TO VIETNAM.

4. PARTY CONVENTION WENT ON RECORD ADVISING THE GOVERNMENT TO SEEK A FORM OF DIPLOMATIC CONNECTIONS WITH SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH CONFORMS WITH THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND SITUATION THERE. IN SO DOING, CONVENTION REJECTED RADICAL MOVE TO USE POLEMICAL LANGUAGE FOR EARLIER LABOR PARTY CONVENTION DURING HEIGHT OF US INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM.

5. VIBE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE EVOLVING SOUTH VIETNAMESE SITUATION WHEN IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER COMMUNISTS WILL STRIVE FOR TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT UNDER PARIS AGREEMENT, A PRG GOVERNMENT OR HANOI-DOMINATED CONFEDERATION, IT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT
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TO RECOMMEND RECOGNITION NOW.

6. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND FRYDENLUND PLANS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE PARTY CONVENTION'S WISHES AND WILL TAKE THE RECOGNITION ISSUES TO THE STARTING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK. IN SO DOING HE PLANS OUTLINE POLICY, UNCERTAINTY AND DIFFICULTIES WITH INTENTION OF STALLING ANY FIRM DECISION ON THESE MATTERS

UNTIL EVENTS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES BECOME CLEARER.
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